

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

U.S. Route 34, Henderson and Warren Counties, Illinois

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Submitted Pursuant to 42 USC 4332 (2)(c)

by the

U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

and

Illinois Department of Transportation

Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

2/28/02
Date of Approval

2/27/02
Date of Approval

Michael L. Hine
For IDOT

J. Stevenson
For FHWA

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Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is proposing to improve U.S. Route 34 from the intersection of Carman Road west to Monmouth, extending a length of approximately 40 kilometers (24.85 miles). The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a high-type transportation facility for local and regional traffic in Henderson and Warren Counties which includes a continuous four-lane link between the existing freeway at Gulfport in the vicinity of Carman Road to east of Monmouth. The need for the project is to improve traffic safety, system continuity, and system capacity. The preferred action is the construction of partially limited access four-lane facility and includes a bypass to the community of Biggsville. The right-of-way needed to construct the proposed action will utilize 240 hectares (ha) [593 acre (ac)] of existing U.S. Route 34 right-of-way and require 278 ha (687 ac) of new right-of-way. Potential environmental effects include the conversion of 274 ha (677 ac) of agricultural land, 6.8 ha (16.8 ac) of 100-year (Zone A) floodplain, and 0.17 ha (0.42 ac) of wetlands to right-of-way and one commercial and ten residential relocations. Other alternatives considered include the No Action, transportation system management, upgrade of existing facility, and build alternates on new or partial new location.

Comments on this draft EIS are due by May 13, 2002 and should be sent to Joseph Crowe, IDOT District Engineer.